

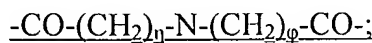
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 10-11, 15, 25-26, 30, 45 and 49 without prejudice or admission.
Amend claims 1-2, 4, 12-13, 16-17, 19, 27-28, 31-32, 46, 48 and 50-52 as shown below, without prejudice or admission, so that the pending claims are as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A compound ~~comprising~~ which comprises:

(a) a peptide moiety comprising at least two peptide monomers,

(b) a linker moiety connecting the two peptide monomers and having the structure

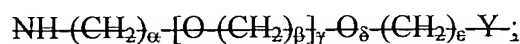


(c) a spacer moiety having the structure



in which Y of the spacer moiety is CO attached to N of the linker moiety[[,]]; and

(d) a water-soluble polymer moiety wherein attached to the spacer moiety
~~is between the peptide moiety and the water-soluble polymer moiety~~
~~and having the structure:~~



wherein α , β , γ , δ , and ϵ are each integers whose values are independently selected.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The compound of claim 1, wherein

α is an integer, $1 \leq \alpha \leq 6$;

β is an integer, $1 \leq \beta \leq 6$;

ϵ is an integer, $1 \leq \epsilon \leq 6$;

δ is 0 or 1; and

γ is an integer, $0 \leq \gamma \leq 10$; ~~and~~

~~Y is either NH or CO.~~

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The compound of claim 2, wherein $\gamma > 1$ and $\beta = 2$.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn – Currently amended): The compound of claim 1 wherein

$\alpha = \beta = \varepsilon = 2$; and

$\gamma = \delta = 1$; ~~and~~

~~Y is NH.~~

Claim 5 (Original): The compound of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble polymer moiety is a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn - Previously presented) The compound of claim 5 wherein the molecular weight of the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is 20 KDalton or more.

Claim 7 (Original): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is linear.

Claim 8 (Original): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDalton.

Claim 9 (Original): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has polydispersity value (M_w/M_n) of less than 1.20.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The compound of claim ~~10 or 11~~ 1, wherein each peptide monomer comprises no more than 50 amino acid monomers.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The compound of claim 12, wherein each peptide monomer comprises between about 10 and 25 amino acid monomers.

Claim 14 (Original): The compound of claim 1, wherein the peptide moiety comprises one or more peptides which bind to erythropoietin-receptors.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising

~~[[(a)]]~~ a compound comprising and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, preservatives, solubilizers, emulsifiers, adjuvants or carriers,

wherein the compound comprises

(a) a peptide moiety comprising at least two peptide monomers,

(b) a linker moiety connecting the two peptide monomers and

having the structure



(c) a spacer moiety having the structure



in which Y of the spacer moiety is a CO attached to N of the linker moiety, and

(d) a water-soluble polymer moiety wherein attached to the spacer

moiety is between the peptide moiety and the water-soluble polymer moiety and having the structure



wherein α , β , γ , δ , and ε are each integers whose values are independently selected;

and

~~(b) one or more pharmaceutically acceptable diluents, preservatives, solubilizers, emulsifiers, adjuvants and/or carriers.~~

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The composition of claim 16, wherein

α is an integer, $1 \leq \alpha \leq 6$;

β is an integer, $1 \leq \beta \leq 6$;

ε is an integer, $1 \leq \varepsilon \leq 6$;

δ is 0 or 1; and

γ is an integer, $0 \leq \gamma \leq 10$; ~~and~~
~~Y is either NH or CO.~~

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The composition of claim 17, wherein $\gamma > 1$ and $\beta = 2$.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn – Currently amended): The composition of claim 16 wherein
 $\alpha = \beta = \epsilon = 2$; and
 $\gamma = \delta = 1$; ~~and~~
~~Y is NH.~~

Claim 20 (Original): The composition of claim 16 wherein the water-soluble polymer moiety is a poly(ethylene glycol) moiety.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn - Previously presented): The composition of claim 20 wherein the molecular weight of the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is 20 KDalton or more.

Claim 22 (Original): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety is linear.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDalton.

Claim 24 (Original): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety has polydispersity value (M_w/M_n) of less than 1.20.

Claims 25-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The composition of claim ~~25 or 26~~ 16, wherein each peptide monomer comprises no more than 50 amino acid monomers.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): The composition of claim 27, wherein each peptide monomer comprises between about 10 and 25 amino acid monomers.

Claim 29 (Original): The composition of claim 16, wherein the peptide moiety comprises one or more peptides which bind to erythropoietin-receptors.

Claim 30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Currently amended): The compound of claim 1, wherein

$\alpha = 2$; and

$\gamma = \delta = \beta = \epsilon = 0$; ~~and~~

~~Y is CO.~~

Claim 32 (Currently amended): The composition of claim 16, wherein

$\alpha = 2$; and

$\gamma = \delta = \beta = \epsilon = 0$; ~~and~~

~~Y is CO.~~

Claim 33 (Original): The compound of claim 5 wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises at least one monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain.

Claim 34 (Original): The compound of claim 33 wherein each poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 20 wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises at least one monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain.

Claim 36 (Original): The compound of claim 35 wherein each poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 5, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 37, wherein each monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn - Previously presented): The compound of claim 37, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine residue.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 37, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine amide.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 20, wherein the poly(ethylene glycol) moiety comprises two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 41, wherein each monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chain has a molecular weight from 20 to 40 KDaltons.

Claim 43 (Withdrawn - Previously presented): The composition of claim 41, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine residue.

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The composition of claim 41, wherein the two monomeric poly(ethylene glycol) chains are linked together through a lysine amide.

Claim 45 (Canceled).

Claim 46 (Currently amended): The compound of claim [[45]] 1, wherein

η is an integer $1 \leq \eta \leq 6$; and

ϕ is an integer $1 \leq \phi \leq 6$.

Claim 47 (Previously presented): The compound of claim 46, wherein $\eta = \varphi = 1$.

Claim 48 (Currently amended): The compound of claim ~~[[45]]~~ 1, wherein

- (i) one or both peptide monomers comprise a lysine residue having an ϵ -amino group, and
- (ii) one or both CO linkages of the linker moiety form an amide bond with the ϵ -amino group.

Claim 49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (Currently amended): The ~~compound~~ composition of claim ~~[[49]]~~ 16,

wherein

η is an integer $1 \leq \eta \leq 6$; and

φ is an integer $1 \leq \varphi \leq 6$.

Claim 51 (Currently amended): The ~~compound~~ composition of claim 50, wherein $\eta =$

$\varphi = 1$.

Claim 52 (Currently amended): The ~~compound~~ composition of claim ~~[[49]]~~ 16,

wherein:

- (i) one or both peptide monomers comprise a lysine residue having an ϵ -amino group, and
- (ii) one or both CO linkages of the linker moiety form an amide bond with the ϵ -amino group.

* * * * *